



1720 N Street NW
Washington, DC 20036



MAY 5, 2017 AT 11:59 PM ET

CONTACT: Lisa Schames, [312\) 551-7300 x702](tel:3125517300)
or lschames@cnu.org

CNU HONORS LAND-USE ACTION PLAN FOR ATLANTA'S HISTORIC WESTSIDE
WINNING STRATEGY EMPHASIZES HOUSING, HISTORY

Seattle, Washington: On Friday, The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) announced the winners of its annual Charter Awards, given for excellence in architectural, landscape, urban, and regional design that helps build more equitable, sustainable, connected, healthy, and prosperous communities.

Among those recognized was Thadani Architects + Urbanists for the **Westside Atlanta Land-Use Action Plan**, a project that builds on the history and tremendous potential of Atlanta's historic Westside. The goal is to regenerate 1,700 acres of blighted historic urban fabric in five historic neighborhoods less than one mile from downtown, while also enhancing a sense of place—and building affordable housing.

The world's largest consortium of historically black colleges and universities is on the Westside, which was home to Martin Luther King Jr., Julian Bond, and other civil rights leaders. Yet the area now claims the worst statistics per capita in Georgia for drug use, illiteracy, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, murder, and deaths by overdose. These once-thriving neighborhoods have seen disinvestment and depopulation.

A primary focus of the Action Plan is supporting current residents (renters and owners) with measures to protect against displacement and identify prime areas for affordable housing and commerce. The plan envisions adding 3,250 new housing units over five years, more than half of them affordable—including 20 percent earmarked for residents with incomes from zero to 30 percent of area median income. The Westside Future Fund is raising funds from public and private sources to underwrite the gap financing for the subsidized housing. Plan also recommends the repair of more than 20 percent of the streets in the sector with dedicated capital funds in the next five years. The main east-west corridors—Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Joseph E. Boone Boulevard—are already budgeted for improvements.

The plan was commissioned and funded by the City of Atlanta and the Westside Future Fund, the organization created by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and the Atlanta Committee for Progress, a coalition of community leaders from the public, private and nonprofits sectors, to help organize and fuel revitalization efforts.

-more-

“Thomas Edison once said that ‘Ideas without execution are a hallucination. The Westside Future Fund will now champion the execution of the great ideas embedded in the Land Use Action Plan,” said John Ahmann, Executive Director of the Westside Future Fund.

CNU recognized sixteen professional and student design projects across the United States and in Mexico, Spain, and South Africa. The awards were announced at a ceremony culminating CNU’s annual Congress, a 4-day event that brings together as many as 2,000 people to discuss, debate, engage, and advance the principals of New Urbanism.

Regarded as the preeminent award for excellence in urban design, the CNU Charter Awards have honored a select number of winners and honorable mentions since 2002.

CNU convenes a Charter Awards jury of distinguished designers, architects, planners and scholars who review entries and select winners. Applicants are judged on the extent to which they fulfill and advance the principles of the [Charter of the New Urbanism](#), which defines the essential qualities of outstanding buildings and urban places.

The fifteen other projects were also recognized for addressing challenges such as rising sea levels, multimodal planning for transportation, the need to update civic structures such as libraries and city halls, community disruption by major highways, and small-scale interventions to quickly make major roads more walkable.

“These are designs that have a very real impact on people’s lives,” said Lynn Richards, President and CEO of CNU. “They demonstrate the value and flexibility of New Urbanist principles to combatting important challenges, from climate change to the fragmentation of communities.”

Through 25 years of advocacy, the Congress for the New Urbanism has advocated for [reinvestment in walkable cities and towns](#). As Americans both young and old demand walkable lifestyles, the market for sustainable and equitable places is growing in every region. Through our projects, innovative tools, events, membership and programs, we empower people to deliver those places. CNU is a 501(c)3 with offices in Chicago, IL and Washington, DC.

See next page for a complete list of projects. Photos available on request.

-more-

List of the 2017 Charter Awards

Grand Prize:

Free to all | Central Library Transformation

[Community-oriented redesign for brutalist landmark building](#)

Boston, Massachusetts

William Rawn Associates

Student Grand Prize: Ubuntu in Umbumbulu

[Renewing hope from house to village](#)

eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Andrews University, School of Architecture & Interior Design

(Student Project)

Blue Water Workforce & Affordable Housing

[Innovative design for affordable housing](#)

Tavernier Key, Florida

DPZ Partners

Guide to Placemaking for Mobility

[Reclaiming streets for people](#)

Boston, Massachusetts

Stantec

Westside Atlanta

[Revitalization rooted in place](#)

Atlanta, Georgia

Thadani Architects + Urbanists

Building Durable Wealth

[Redeveloping in-city freeway corridors](#)

Providence, Rhode Island

The University of Notre Dame Graduate Urban Design Studio (Student Project)

Guadalupe Hirian: A New Town for Hondarribia

New town of timeless urbanism

Hondarribia, Spain

University of Miami (Student Project)

Envision Broadway Demonstration Project

[Playful, tactical interventions for walkability](#)

Nashville, Tennessee

Metro Nashville Planning Department

Keeping History Above Water

[Harnessing civil engineering for preservation against climate change](#)

Newport, Rhode Island.

Union Studio Architecture & Community Design

Plan NoBe

[Building on local assets for resilience](#)

Miami Beach, Florida

Dover, Kohl & Partners

-more-

Parsons Alley

[Building on the past, looking to the future](#)

Duluth, Georgia

Kronberg Wall Architects

Plaza La Reina

[A timeless and artful building](#)

Los Angeles, California

Moule & Polyzoides, Architects and Urbanists

San Cristobal City Hall Renovation

Grand new plaza highlights history

San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico

C Cubica Arquitectos

Small Town Tactics

Test-driving a road diet

Avon, CO

Design Workshop

St. Joseph's Redevelopment

[Harmony of old and new is gift to city](#)

Oakland, California

Van Meter Williams Pollack, LLP

The Storefront Theater

[Artist's innovation makes Main Street a town square](#)

Lyons, Nebraska

Matthew Mazzotta

Please embargo until 11:59 PM Friday, May 5, 2017

For press credentials to cover the award ceremony in Seattle, or further information, contact:

Lisa Schames, Congress for the New Urbanism

lschames@cnu.org

#